

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Consideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-18 are canceled. Claims 19-30 have been added.

Claim 19 is directed to an apparatus corresponding to Fig. 2 and based on former claim 5.

Claim 20 is directed to an apparatus corresponding to Fig. 7 and based on former claim 6.

Claim 21 is directed to an apparatus corresponding to Fig. 11 and based on former claim 7.

Claim 22 is directed to an apparatus corresponding to Fig. 14 and based on former claim 8.

Claim 23 is directed to a method corresponding to Fig. 2 and based on former claim 10.

Claim 24 is directed to a method corresponding to Fig. 7 and based on former claim 11.

Claim 25 is directed to a method corresponding to Fig. 11 and based on former claim 12.

Claim 26 is directed to a method corresponding to Fig. 14 and based on former claim 13.

Claim 27 is directed to a storage medium corresponding to Fig. 2 and based on former claim 15.

Claim 28 is directed to a storage medium corresponding to Fig. 7 and based on former claim 16.

Claim 29 is directed to a storage medium corresponding to Fig. 11 and based on former claim 17.

Claim 30 is directed to a storage medium corresponding to Fig. 14 and based on former claim 18.

Previous claims 5, 7, 10, 12, 15 and 17 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (Fig. 1; specification page 2, line 18 - page 4, line 5) in view of Pinder et al. and further in view of Oka. Previous claims 6, 8, 11, 13, 16 and 18 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of Pinder et al.

The claims have been rewritten as new claims 19-30 to include at least the following features:

i) storing, in a memory, encoded first data and applicable time information which defines a plurality of modes of utilization of the first data and executable time periods of operations respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization, and

ii) judging if a requested operation is executable, upon a request for operation execution, by reading the applicable time information from the memory and referring to an executable time period corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by the request to compare with a current time.

Because of at least the above features, it is possible to judge if a requested operation is executable and to selectively execute one of operations respectively corresponding to a plurality of modes of utilization. These features are neither taught nor suggested in Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, Pinder et al., and Oka.

Pinder discloses applicable time information (see Fig. 19, fields 1923, 1925, 1927 and the like); however, Pinder's applicable time information does not define a plurality of modes of utilization of the first data and executable time periods of operations respectively corresponding to the plurality of modes of utilization, as recited in the pending claims (see, e.g., Fig. 4 of the present application).

Moreover, Pinder fails to disclose judging if a requested operation is executable, upon a request for operation execution, by reading the applicable time information from the memory and referring to an executable time period corresponding to a mode of utilization indicated by the request to compare with a current time, as recited in the pending claims.

Oka discloses processing units (see Fig. 1, sections 112, 114, 116, and 118), but fails to disclose the above-described applicable time information and judging technique.

Thus, even if such Pinder and Oka are combined with Applicant's Admitted Prior Art, one of ordinary skill in the art would not reach the claimed invention. Therefore, the claimed invention should not be rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Appln. No.: 08/932,543
Preliminary Amendment dated December 21, 2004

CONCLUSION

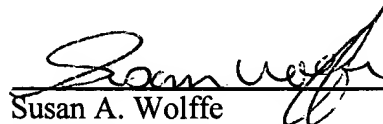
All prior rejections having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: December 21, 2004

By:



Susan A. Wolffe
Registration No. 33,568

1001 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Tel: (202) 824-3000
Fax: (202) 824-3001
SAW/cd